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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 15 | Humidity 52% Generally cloudy sky. Misty morning Sensex 57,420 | Nifty 17,086 | Gold 48,133 | Silver 61,956 | Dollar 74.98 | Euro 84.80 | GBP 100.54

SMALL SPIKE IN CITY'S COVID POSITIVITY RATE

LANE POLICING: COPS FOR CYCLISTS' SAFETY

CCTVS, PANIC BUTTONS IN 5,000 BUSES

From paver blocks to cobblestones and now white-topping, Commercial Street keeps on shape shifting. Smart city indeed

MEAN STREET

'White-topping, cheap and low on maintenance'

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Commercial Street, the famous shopping hub of Bengaluru, where hundreds of people gather every day, still remains a mess since the time Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) undertook the project for the street's transformation back in 2020.

From coloured cement blocks that failed to hold together after the July 2021 inauguration to the unfinished laying of cobblestones thereafter, now, the plan has changed once again.

The government has decided to white-top the street. Yes, concrete the whole stretch.

The initial work started in May 2020 with a cost estimate of Rs 5.5 crore. The main stretch of Commercial Street was to be upgraded just like Church Street; even upgrading of drainage lines, power, sewage, and telecom lines had to be done.

After all the underground work was completed, the BSCL installed coloured cement paver blocks on the footpaths; the carriageway had cobblestones laid. In July, the work was completed and inaugurated by former chief

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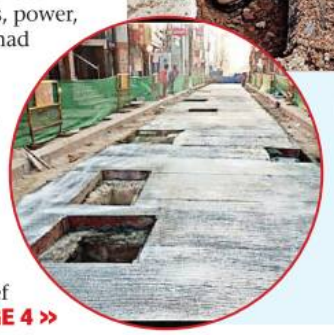
A dug-up Commercial Street in November 2021



"For Christmas and New Year, Commercial Street is usually crowded with shoppers. But now, businesses are hit. If white-topping was the easier option, the government should have decided on it earlier, instead of choosing to lay cobblestones.
— Shop-owner

Fear of the dark

Logic behind reintroduction of night curfew questioned

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The reimposition of the night curfew in the city and state has drawn strong reactions from various quarters with many business entities criticising the move.

Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy stepped in asking what will the state gain from the night curfew: "There is no use of the night curfew. Experts are predicting a third wave in February. We should not forget that businesses have been hit hard since the past two years. I wonder why the government is adopting a dual stand by not taking any action on political rallies but taking decisions that affect businesses."

Meanwhile, auto-rickshaw and taxi driver unions flayed the move saying their late night businesses will be affected. Moreover, with people staying indoors, there will be hardly any customers. According to proprietors of restaurants and bars, the main business is on December 31 and January 1; 'the latest set of restrictions will only make it worse'.

However, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai defended the move, stating the night curfew has been imposed in the state in the interest of public health, reacting to the displeasure among the business community.

People would have to strictly follow covid norms at tourist spots too.

Health minister Dr K Sudhakar said the government's decisions are taking into account people's health. "We don't have any mala fide interest in shutting down or imposing restrictions on businesses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 A paw-sitive season

In the spirit of the festive season, Heads Up For Tails is inviting people to donate their pet's pre-loved items/ buy new products at our stores to donate at discounted prices. Collect all your pet's pre-loved items that are in good condition and drop them off at your nearest HUFT store. The pre-loved items/new products bought at the stores will further be passed on to Charlies Animal Rescue Centre to help the furry friends in need. So, open your hearts and your pet's closet to our furry friends in need.

Where: All HUFT stores in Bangalore
When: Till Dec 31

02 Into the forest

Check out Bengaluru-based artist Ganapati Hegde's artwork which are a part of KYNKYNY.com's latest virtual exhibition, 'Into the Forest'. Into the Forest celebrates the deep and wondrous forests of coastal Karnataka. Hegde's acrylics and oils on canvas transport us into the middle of the lush, brilliantly coloured landscapes teeming with wild flora and a myriad of creatures. The exhibition is the artistic equivalent of forest bathing. In these times of ecological disaster and climate change, Hegde's ecological and environmentally engaged art also reminds us of the fragile balance that exists between nature and humanity.

Where: KYNKYNY.com
When: Till Dec 31

03 For art's sake!

India's largest e-commerce platform for framed wall art, Arte'Venue, is offering a wide range of over 3,50,000 licensed art work from international artists. Adopting new technologies to provide a good shopping experience to the customers, Arte'Venue allows customization of premium quality Giclée on various media. For every selected artwork, it offers extreme flexibility in terms of size, media, framing and the highlight of their offerings is experiencing the art work through augmented reality.

Where: artevenue.com
When: Ongoing

Spike in positivity rate has experts worried

Omicron cases rising in Bengaluru & K'taka; Palike says all protocols are firmly in place

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Travellers arriving at Majestic Bus Stand wait for their turn to get swabbed by Palike health workers

Omicron cases are rising in the city and the state, and so is the positivity rate. According to war room data by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the city's positivity rate has shown a slight increase in from 0.47per cent in the first week of December to 0.54 per cent on December 25.

The positivity rate during November 28 - December 4 was 0.47 per cent, followed by 0.45per cent during December 5 - 11, while a further drop was reported during December 12 - 18 with 0.41 per cent positivity rate. An increase in positivity rate was reported during December 19 - 25 with 0.54 per cent positivity rate.

The test positivity rate is the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that turn out to be positive and detect the presence of the virus.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said: "The increase in positivity rate can definitely be a sign of concern. However, we are now managing to keep the cluster cases in control with effective containment management. We have even been checking on the hospitalisations and the covid numbers have been low. Currently the covid status in the city is well in control; we are maintaining a high number of testing and there is nothing to worry about."

"We should ensure that all the necessary measures should be taken on testing all the travellers and gatherings shouldn't be allowed –A health expert

However, even hospitals in the city pointed out that the covid admissions have been low, but it could increase with the festive season still on. "At present, there is no significant increase in the number. However, we might see a rise in the cases as there will be gathering of people due to new year celebrations. Currently, at the hospital, six to seven patients are admitted with mild to moderate covid symptoms," said Dr Brinda MS, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital.

A doctor from KC General Hospital stated that covid admissions have been low, however with the omicron variant in places, all the measures need to be carried out since it is highly transmissible. "We should ensure that all the necessary measures should be taken on testing all the travellers and gatherings shouldn't be allowed. The low number of admissions is definitely a good sign with people not falling sick with severity; it could be due to vaccinations. Now, with booster doses starting, many will get advanced protection," said the expert.

Meanwhile, the number of covid cases have risen as well in the city from the past week. While 1,227 cases were reported during December 12 - 18, an increase was seen during December 19 - 24 when 1,425 cases were reported.

Karnataka ranks 19 in national health index

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Despite boasting of excellent health infrastructure, Karnataka has ranked 19th – and last among large states in the country -- in a latest report by NITI Aayog. The think tank on Monday released the fourth edition of the national health index for 2019–20. Titled 'Healthy States, Progressive India', the report ranks states and union territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes and overall status.

The report is an annual tool to assess the performance of states and UTs. It is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'.

Each domain has been assigned weights based on its importance with higher scores for outcome indicators. Data is collected online through a portal maintained by NITI on agreed indicators. The data is then validated through an independent validation agency selected through a transparent bidding process. The validated data sheets are shared with the states for verification, followed by video conferences with the states for resolving any disagreements or disputes. The final sheets thus settled are shared with the states, and after agreement, the data is finalised and used for analysis and report-writing.

Titled 'Healthy States, Progressive India', the report ranks states & UTs on their yearly performance based on 24 indicators

The report says that the incremental changes in 'Health Index Scores' from Base Year (2018-19) to Reference Year (2019-20) varied significantly among large states with a vast majority of the states recording an improved performance. While, the largest increase in Index Scores (5.52 points) was shown by Uttar Pradesh, the largest decline was observed by Karnataka (-1.37 points). Karnataka ranked 19th (last) in the table led by Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana. The state recorded -1.37 incremental decrease from base to reference year. The incremental performance also shows that Karnataka, along with Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Haryana, has seen no improvement at all.

Trends in Indicator Performance

The report states that a stable tenure of key administrative positions at the state and district level is essential for good governance. This was captured through the indicators on average occupancy of an officer (in months) for a period of three years for key administrative positions at the state (Principal Secretary (Health), Mission Director and Director Health Services) and at the district level (district CMOs). The average occupancy of three key state level administrative positions over a 36-month period was lowest in Karnataka both in 2014-15 (6.9 months) and in 2019-20 (7.7 months).

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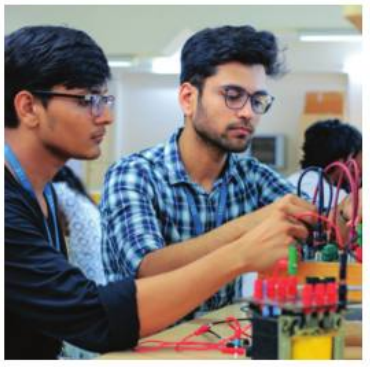

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Act of traffic service

North Traffic Division is spreading awareness against traffic violations, regarding road safety through street plays, posters for Crime Prevention Month

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The North Traffic Division is observing Crime Prevention Month (usually December) by creating awareness about recurring violations and crimes using street theatre.

"We come across many cases of overspeeding, overloading, drunken driving, and using mobile phones while driving in the North Traffic Division. We are creating awareness about common paractices of negligence by public," said Savitha S, DCP, Bangalore Traffic Police (North).

The division has chosen to spread such awareness with a wide range of media like posters, signages and street theatre.

Parivarthana, a local theatre group, is portraying these issues on the streets by performing, round the clock, in five police stations. In a single day, the group performs skits at four venues. On December 23, they conducted a play at RT Nagar. On Monday, they performed their skit in Chikkajala, on Tuesday in Hebbal, Wednesday in KIAL and on Thursday they performed in Yelahanaka. The department is also trying to create awareness about accidents associated with New Year celebrations.

"We want to focus on accidents, their causes and how the public can help prevent them. In the North Division, most accidents and deaths are seen in Yelahanka and then in Chikkajala. We want to use theatre to express these problems with short skits as they tend to create a greater impact in the minds of the public," Savitha explained.

The public is also being made aware of the new traffic signages that have been released this year.

A scene from a play based of traffic violations, their consequences, performed by Parivarthana, the local theatre group working with traffic cops

"We want to focus on accidents, their causes and how the public can help prevent them. Skits tend to generate a greater impact in the minds of people

–Savitha S, DCP, Bangalore Traffic Police (North)

"The North Division will be distributing posters to the beat constables to create more awareness in their sectors," she added.

Further, the DCP said, "We have also trained 50 NCC cadets from colleges of traffic awareness from Traffic Training and Road Safety Institute that gives training to both police personnel and public at the same time. The training is designed for the cadets to assist their colleges in traffic management and parking."

Traning hase also been provided to violators to bring about an overall behavioural change. The DCP added that owing to a large number of accidents on highways, the department has spoken to NHAI to install metal crash barriers on medians on the entire stretch of Bellary Road.

"The public assumes that they are only being observed while traffic police personnel are present on the road. But they are constantly under surveillance. Fines only play a small part to prevent crime. However, violations can potentially lead to accidents and such consequences are often unavoidable. When an accident occurs, wearing helmets protects riders but many continue to wear skull caps instead. There is a need for increased awareness about the consequence of these violations among the public," the DCP explained.

Citizens can take part in reporting crimes by using apps like Public Eye and even access contactless booking of cases.

The DCP added that the traffic department faces issues with road engineering that requires the cooperation of other departments and civic authorities to help resolve problems of commuters and reduce accidents.

Never ending commercial break

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

minister BS Yediyurappa. A day after the inauguration, as it rained, the entire street saw water overflowing from the utility ducts, damaging the entire stretch. Meanwhile, in a matter of time, even the colourful paver blocks - which attracted many of the visitors - came off and turned gray with accumulated dust on them.

It was after an array of complaints that revenue minister R Ashoka visited Commercial Street and ordered the contractor to redo the stretch. Thereafter, the relaying of paver blocks began once again. During the rains in the month of October and November, the street had turned almost unrecognisable with no place to walk around with the ongoing works.

Even during the beginning of December, the work on footpaths was ongoing and there was limited parking space, as even visitors found it difficult to walk.

Many visitors who were waiting to see the cobblestones on the stretch, will now only get to see a white-topped Commercial Street. The BSCL stated that after consulting agencies such as DULT and other government bodies, it has been decided to white-top the street.

"We had a discussion with the shoppers association so as to complete the work within 15 days as the businesses were facing losses. The technical advisory committee said cobblestones would not last long where there is a high movement of vehicles. Unlike Church Street where the vehicle movement is low, Commercial Street has 10-20% more movement of vehicles; hence there are chances of the cobblestones coming off. So, we have decided to go for white-topping for easy completion," Smart City managing director Rajender Cholan said.

According to an official from BSCL, white -topping work would take less time than laying cobblestones: "The life of white-topped roads average a span of 30 years, which is a good option. There will be no more flooding as the underground works are done. Cost of white-topping is lesser than cobblestone work. The laying of cobblestones is a longer process; further if one cobblestone comes off there will be a need to fix it again. In white-topping, we will not have any such problem. Maintenance of a white-topped street is easy, while cobblestone road maintenance is higher. Based on the shoppers' needs and experts' advice we have decided to opt for white-topping. The project cost was estimated at around Rs 5 crore; now it will be much less with white-topping."

Many of the shop-owners appeared dejected as the work has been pending since long. "We are facing losses, with people not wanting to come as they are finding it difficult to walk in the dust from ongoing works. Many are refusing to come. We already faced losses during the pandemic, which we could make up for now, but with delayed works, we are stuck," said a shop-owner who has been operating a store for more than 10 years along the street.

Another business owner pitched in: "For Christmas and New Year, Commercial Street is usually crowded with shoppers. But now, businesses are hit. If white-topping was the easier option, the government should have decided on it earlier, instead of choosing to lay cobblestones. A different plan every now and then affects people."

However, Cholan assured the majority of the work would be completed and the white-topping done before January 15. A neat stretch shall welcome the visitors in the coming year, he said.

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Stressful stretch
Panathur

The main road is in a very bad condition but, despite complaints, BBMP is yet to fix it.

Draining stuff
Ulal Main Road

The drains near Vidya Niketan school must be repaired at the soonest, a concerned reader wrote to BM.

LANE POLICING

Awareness programmes on traffic rules and road lanes set to begin in the city

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With the number of cyclists increasing in the city, the city traffic police are all set to start awareness campaigns on the safety of cyclists and make drivers and riders aware about the rules.

City Police Commissioner, Kamal Pant, said that there needs to be more awareness on the safety of cyclists as they are vulnerable and could easily get hurt. "I have seen a lot of cyclists ride on the right side of the main road and sometimes even in the middle of the road which should be stopped. Whether there is a cycle lane or not, cyclists should ride on the left side of the lane for their safety and smooth flow of traffic. The motorists in the middle and right would be speeding and the cyclists on that lane would not only affect the traffic but also could result in an accident.

"Many cyclists try to take over other vehicles from the right side in slow traffic which is even more dangerous as the large vehicles have blind spots and cannot see them coming from behind. They could end up running over them. Though they use safety gears, they are still the most vulnerable on the main roads."

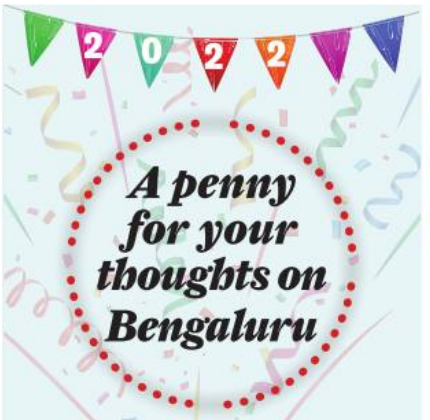
Cyclists often risk their lives by riding on the motor vehicles' lanes

A senior traffic police officer pointed out another issue of cyclists riding on the one way on main roads putting their lives at risk. "Though the Indian Motor Vehicle Act does not apply for cyclists and they can ride one way but with the sheer volume of traffic, it is very dangerous for them to ride one- way. We cannot impose fines or force them to not ride one way but we are requesting them not to for their own safety. Most of the vehicles will be speeding if it's one way and the cyclists could easily get hurt especially in the evening when there's not enough light."

He added they should maintain the simple thumb rule of slower vehicles on the left, medium speed vehicles on the middle and high-speed vehicles on the right.

> **Many cyclists try to overtake vehicles from the right side in slow traffic, which is very dangerous**
>
> – Kamal Pant, police commissioner

Sathya Sankaran, Bangalore Bicycle Mayor, said that the traffic police should give more importance to the existing encroachments on the cycle lanes. "We are carrying out more awareness campaigns for cyclists. They need to educate the two-wheelers and cars to give us space and watch out for cyclists. We have started Cycle Computer Certification (3C program) where we teach people how to cycle, follow traffic rules that apply for us and about road safety. They need to look into the enforcement of cycle lanes as many two-wheelers use the cycle lane and they don't impose fines on them," he said.



Dear readers, the year is coming to a close. And as is our wont, we move on despite all that life throws at us, in the hope of newer and greater beginnings. We trust all of us are in the same ship and the journey is more fun if we can share stories. So tell us:

What is the one big change that you want to see in Bengaluru in 2022?

Please send us a 50-word write-up on **mybangaloremirror @timesgroup.com** or **WhatsApp us on: 9591233247**

We shall be publishing your thoughts as we ring in the New Year on January 1

Four poachers arrested for selling wild meat

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The Ramanagara district police recently busted a gang of hunters, who allegedly operate in the wild, use country-made firearms to hunt wild animals and sell the meat to villagers.

The arrested are Krishnakumar D (26), Madhu G (19), Ganganna H (37) and Madhu MS (19), all residents of Magadi in Ramanagara district. According to the police, the forest department officials were tipped off that meat of wild boar and porcupines are available at some shops in Akkur village of Channapatna rural circle. The forest officials, with the help of Akkur police, managed to nab the accused and also recovered a dead porcupine and four country-made rifles. They booked them under the Arm's Act as they were operating the firearms without licenses, a police officer said.

Upon questioning, the accused confessed to the police that two of them have been working as blacksmiths and they used to make daggers, machetes and sometimes even parts of guns or rifles. The villagers used to take guns for rent to go hunting inside the forests, they told the police.

Earlier, they used to prepare crude bombs, which they would plant inside baits like fruits or other eatables like Raagi balls. They would wait until the animal bit it and the bomb blasted inside their mouth. "Since a few domestic animals and humans sustained injuries, they stopped the trend," a senior police officer said.

Bengaluru houses now 0.2% cheaper

Witnessing marginal degrowth with 0.2 per cent year on year (YoY) decline in home prices, Bengaluru has been ranked 140th globally, according to Knight Frank Global Residential Cities Index Q3 2021. The report cited that the residential prices across 150 cities globally increased at an annual average of 10.6 per cent YoY in Q3 2021. This is recorded as the fastest residential price growth rate since Q1 2005.

The report highlighted that 93 per cent of cities saw prices increase over the 12-month period. Around 44 per cent of cities registered double-digit price growth in the year to Q3 2020. Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index has featured four Indian cities -- Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad -- to have witnessed residential price appreciation in Q3 2021.

However, Hyderabad positioned at 128th rank with 2.5 per cent YoY rise in home prices. On a domestic level, Hyderabad recorded the highest residential appreciation. Chennai ranked 2nd amongst Indian cities and 131st globally with residential price appreciation of 2.2 per cent.

—Naveen Shivanna

What is exempted from curfew?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We are neither happy nor support it. However, we have to take tough decisions as the Omicron surge is seen globally. I appeal to the business community to understand the measures to be taken if the cases go up. Early measures are necessary so that the situation doesn't go out of hand. We request everyone to understand our cause. We don't want to follow our neighbouring states and instead want to make Karnataka a model state in controlling covid cases. My only appeal is to support the government." The health minister added that if the cases increase then it will stress the health infrastructure which can be dangerous.

Bengaluru city police commissioner Kamal Pant issued the latest order regarding the night curfew on Monday. The curfew will remain in force from December 28, 2021 to January 7, 2022, in all parts of Bengaluru city, from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am.

Pant stated on Monday that cases will be lodged against those who violate the curfew, Tuesday onwards. "As per the government orders, the curfew will be imposed in Bengaluru between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. There is no scope for any activity in pubs, clubs and other commercial establishments," he said.

"If anyone is found violating the curfew they will be booked under the National Disaster Management Act (NDMA)," he warned.

"The police will not let people roam during the night curfew," he added.

He stressed there will be no movement of vehicles and people on MG Road, Brigade Road, Koramangala and Indiranagar after 10:00 pm.

"The curfew will remain in force from December 28, 2021 to January 7, 2022, in all parts of Bengaluru city, from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am. The police will not let people roam during the night curfew.

"The police will take extra measures on New Year's eve to enforce the curfew. Most of the happening pubs and restaurants are located in these areas and the people of Bengaluru traditionally ring in the New Year on MG Road and Brigade Road. Vehicle movement used to be stopped to allow the celebrations. CCTV's will be installed everywhere and no passes will be issued. Those who move out in an emergency should produce proof; those who are undertaking journeys must show their tickets and those who go to work will require identity cards," he said.

The following are exempted from night curfew — patients and their attendants requiring emergency treatments, industry workers/companies, that operate at night, employees and vehicles of Telecom and Internet Service Providers, essential staff of IT and ITeS companies, medical, emergency and essential services, including pharmacies, movement of all types of goods carriers, including empty vehicles, home delivery of goods and operations of e-commerce, movement of buses, trains, metro services and air travel, movement of public transport, private vehicles and taxis to and from airport, bus terminals/bus stands and railway stations.

The BMRCL announced that there will be a reduced frequency of Metro services after 10:00 pm. However, Metro Train Service Operational Timings remain unaltered.

(With inputs from agencies)

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I reside at 969, 3rd cross, AECS Layout A Block, Kudlu, Bangalore-68 changing name in passport from Edison Sathyapriyan Baskaran to Edison Sathyapriyan.

I reside at 969, 3rd cross, AECS Layout A Block, Kudlu, Bangalore-68 changing name in passport from Sharmila Kaliyamoorthi to Sharmila.

LOST & FOUND

LOST:
I, Smt. JAYAMALA
D/o Sri. SOMEGOWDA
have bought Site No.43, Survey No. 56/1, Jakkasandra Village, Nelamangala Taluk from HANUMANTHAIAH R.M
S/o R.H MARIYAPPA
Sale deed done on 2016 and we transferred this site trough GIFT DEED on 2020,
Sri. HANUMANTHAIAH purchased from
Sri. M.R JAGADISH
S/o Late.N.C RAJAPPA
have lost the original SALE DEED DOCUMENT while shifting our home on 25.11.2021, regarding this issue we lodge a complaint in NELAMANGALA POLICE STATION.
If anybody found please hand over to near by police station.

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Safer rides with BMTC

CCTVs, panic buttons to be added to 5K city buses to ensure public safety

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The city's transport system is about to get safer for commuters. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has finally decided to install vehicle tracking units, CCTV, and panic buttons in 5,000 buses and implement a mobile app to provide a real-time passenger information system to commuters and promote women safety in its buses. This project is funded by the Government of India and Government of Karnataka in the ratio 60:40. This project is expected to be completed by March-2022.

BMTC Managing Director V Anbu Kumar said that the body has tied up with the labour department to issue "Vanitha Sangathi" passes to one lakh Women Garment Workers from January 1, 2022. The cost of these passes will be borne by garment factory owners (40 per cent), State Labour Department (40 per cent) and the BMTC will bear 20 per cent of the cost.

The BMTC will also augment Vajra services in city routes from the present 183 buses to 300 buses during January 2022. "Under the FAME-II scheme of GoI, the BMTC will operate 300 electric buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. The Centre will fund Rs 55 lakh and Karnataka will fund Rs 33.33 lakh for each bus under this project. These buses will be deployed by June 2022. To introduce an advanced ticketing system involving Electronic Ticketing Machines and UPI/ Wallet / Credit card / Debit card payments, "Automatic Fare Collection System (AFCS)" will be implemented in six months. To provide adequate and efficient transport facilities in congested areas with narrow roads and areas surrounding Metro stations and further reduce traffic congestion in City limits, BMTC plans to deploy 1,000 mini buses with 20 seats each next year," Kumar said.

On Monday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched 90 electric buses to be operated as Metro Feeder services to provide first and last-mile connectivity to the public. These buses are non-AC, nine-metre-long, with vehicle tracking units, CCTV, LED route display boards and emergency panic buttons. Bengaluru Smart City Limited is providing financial assistance of Rs 50 crore to operate the buses. The GoI undertaking (M/S NTPC Vyapar Vidyut Nigam Limited) will operate these buses for 10 years on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model at a rate of Rs 51.67 per km with electricity for 180 assured kms daily. The buses (30 each) will be operated from Yeshwanthpur (Depot-8) K R Puram (Depot-29) and Kengeri (Depot-37). These buses will be operated on three routes

> **To reduce traffic congestion, BMTC plans to deploy 1,000 mini buses with 20 seats each next year**
> –V Anbu Kumar, BMTC MD

from Kengeri Depot (Kengeri-Banashankari, Kengeri-Electronic City and Kengeri-Chikkabanavara. So far, 40 buses are delivered and the remaining buses will be deployed by January 2022.

Meanwhile, the BMTC is procuring 565 BS-VI diesel buses with the financial assistance of Rs 191 crore from the Karnataka government. These buses have 41+1 seats with emergency panic button, rear air suspension and LED route display boards. These buses will be deployed for replacement of old buses and augmentation of schedules. So far, 150 buses have been delivered and the remaining buses will be deployed by February 2022.

Committee to rejuvenate transport corps

A committee headed by retired Additional Chief Secretary MR Srinivasa Murthy has been constituted for the revival of these transport corporations, Bommai said. "It is difficult to run transport corporations with government subsidies. The committee will present recommendations on plugging the pilferage in the transport corporations. It will suggest ways to improve their service, raise resources and gain profits," Bommai said.

Referring to raising the revenue of BMTC, Bommai said, earlier many city-based public sector enterprises used to hire BMTC buses to ferry their employees. "We will talk to enterprises like HAL and IT companies to convince them to utilise BMTC services." The chief minister also suggested BMTC to change its look and design to make it more appealing for the commuters.

IN BRIEF

CM 'not quitting'?

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai who had recently created a flutter saying "not even CM post is permanent" brushed aside rumours on Monday, saying that he was not quitting. "I don't know.... all these speculations are your (media) creation....there is no need to tell you what politics we discuss. What has to be discussed in which situation, we will discuss accordingly, it is an internal matter of the party," Bommai said in response to questions on possible "changes" and cabinet reshuffle, during the meetings.

There have been speculations about leadership change in Karnataka and Bommai's possible exit for some time now, which refuses to die down despite the party rejecting it. In response to a question on action against party leaders like Ramesh Jarkiholi following BJP's defeat from the Belagavi MLC seat, Bommai said, "The party high command is seized of the matter." —BMB + Agencies

Google moves HC against CCI probe

Amid the growing debate over its Play Store rules, Google on Monday filed a writ in the Karnataka High Court, asking for more time to reply to the anti-trust investigation by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The plea for interim relief was filed by the Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) in the CCI this October. Google, in its writ petition, argued that there is "no urgency citing the extension in their Play Store policy deadline". The ADIF termed this development and action by Google yet another delay tactic. "This legal challenge by Google is an attempt to frustrate the antitrust process. It calls into question their good faith," said Sijo Kuruvilla George, Executive Director, ADIF.

Google earlier had said that it is extending the timeline for developers in India to October 31, 2022 to help them better integrate with Play Store's billing system. —IANS

State embraces 'desi' convocation

Khadi attire to replace Western gowns at varsities to 'promote Indian culture'

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The 'videshi' or 'angrezi' convocation gowns will be replaced with a 'desi' touch in the State. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has asked the universities to offer 'khadi' dresses to students during convocation and special occasions. After chairing a conference of Vice Chancellors of State Universities at Karnataka State Higher Education Council on Monday, Gehlot suggested the VCs adopt Khadi or handloom fabric for convocations and other special occasions to encourage the use of Khadi.

For a long time, the debate of changing the convocation dress has been gaining steam. In 2019, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) had decided to bid goodbye to caps and gowns for its convocation. The tech varsity had modified the circular, asking students to come only in "handloom dresses"; girls needed to wear white saree/salwar kameez and boys had to wear khadi white pants and shirt.

In 2006, then Higher Education Minister DH Shankaramurthy had asked all the universities to dump the gowns and caps. Although the move was not implemented by all the varsities, since then, there have been a lot of recommendations. Earlier, Karnataka State Law University had asked colleges to 'decolonise' the gown culture. Instead, the students were asked to wear only Khadi dresses and sarees. Instead of the gowns, the students and caps, the students were asked to wear a 'shalya' and it had to have a tri-colour border to hughlight the Indian culture. The law varsity had even suggested the dignitaries wear Khadi dresses. Murthy had then mooted Mysore petas instead of black caps.

In 2019, the UGC had shot off a letter to all the varsities stating, "The UGC emphasises the usage of ceremonial robes made out of handloom fabrics, which would not only entail a sense of pride, but also will be more comfortable during hot and humid weather. Greater usage of handloom garments for apparel would promote the handloom industry in the country."

The convocation gown culture to soon get a 'khadi' makeover

Maximum time to chief guests

During convocation, the chief guests will get the maximum time to speak. Gehlot has suggested that "he must be heard." During the meeting, he said that the chancellor's address should be included in the convocations of universities.

12-yr-old rape victim can abort foetus
Bombay High Court allows 12-year-old rape victim to abort foetus beyond 20-week limit; says forcing pregnancy will breach her fundamental rights

BangaloreMirror | 8
Tuesday, December 28, 2021
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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Only Covaxin for teens; registration to begin from Jan 1

#NEW DELHI

Registration process for adolescents' vaccination on Cowin App will begin from January 1, Cowin Platform Chief Dr RS Sharma said on Monday.

Eligible teens can register themselves on the Cowin app through their Aadhar Card and school IDs.

The registration process will begin from January 1 for teens using their Aadhaar Card.

He informed that those who do not have Aadhar Cards can register with their school IDs. One more option for the vaccine registration has been made available on the app. All options will be operational from January 1.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation on Saturday, had announced that the vaccination for children aged between 15 to 18 will start from January 3. "The decison to vaccinate children will not only strengthen our fight against Covid, it would also reduce the worries of parents whose children are going to schools," he said while announcing the major decision.

Girls take a selfie in front of a vaccination booth in Mumbai

Modi also announced booster dose for healthcare and frontline workers.

As the elderly and the people with comorbidities are more vulnerable to serious illness from Omicron strain, the PM also announced a precaution dose for them.

Hyderabad based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech's Covid vaccine Covaxin has been granted approval from Drug Controller General of India for emergency use for children aged between 12 and 18 years.

Earlier, Zydus Cadila's three-dose DNA vaccine was allowed to be used on adults and children over the age of 12.

Omicron or not, the poll show must go on

Health secy briefs election panel, 5 assembly elections likely to carry on

#NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India is unlikely to postpone the state polls due early next year, sources said. The health Secretary on Monday briefed the Commission about the Omicron threat in the country specially in the poll bound states.

The commission has asked the government to vaccinate all those on election duty ahead of the polls. Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan submitted a report to the commission according to which the assembly polls in Manipur, Goa, Punjab, Uttarakhand and UP are likely to be held at the scheduled time as mandated by the Constitution. The assembly tenure of UP is due to end in May.

Former CEC SY Qureshi told IANS, "postponement of elections is out of question and it will be violation of the Constitution and the Commission will take into account all the factors while it may ban rallies."

A source with the ministry said that the Election Commission and Union Health Ministry discussed the rising number of cases of new Covid variant Omicron across the country with special attention on the states going to polls. Rajesh Bhushan presented a detailed report on the transmissibility of Omicron to the Election Commission.

Women from various districts are seen near cut-outs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Uttar Pradesh

According to a source, on being asked about the Omicron spread in the next three months, the Union Health Secretary said that this time nothing can be said exactly at the moment. The daily Covid caseload can see around 25 per cent jump in next few months as per the present rate of infections, he said in the meeting. The health officials also detailed the districts where R value has increased, said the source.

The assembly elections are scheduled for five states - Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab in 2022. The dates could be announced in the first week of January, said the source. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other officials are scheduled to visit Uttar Pradesh to take stock of the poll preparedness on Tuesday. **-IANS**

5G in 4 metros, chosen cities by 2022

#NEW DELHI

The Fifth Generation or 5G telecom services are set to be rolled out in selected cities in India in 2022. The cities which are set to get the 5G telecom services in 2022 include Gurugram, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune, and Gandhinagar.

Leading telecom service providers Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, have established 5G trials sites in these cities. "These Metros and big cities would be the first places for launch of 5G services in the country, next year," the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said on Monday.

Service providers have set up trial sites in cities like Bengaluru

The fifth-generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. While 4G was a great leap forward, allowing people to stream music and video on the go, 5G is designed to connect many more types of devices than smartphones and offers far higher speed and capacity.

Apart from the leading telecom operators and smartphone manufacturers, the government is also involved actively to facilitate the roll-out of 5G services. The Department of Telecom has roped in leading research institutions for development and testing of 5G technology. **-ANI**

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, 2022

Crystal ball gazing for all crypto investors

If equity investors had a good year, crypto investors had a terrific 2021. Prices of some crypto coins surged 5,000-7,000%, churning out mind-boggling returns for investors.

Even bluechip cryptos like Bitcoin and Ethereum rose 35-40% in 2021. But the trajectory was not a straight line. Bitcoin prices zoomed to touch Rs 51 lakh in April, before falling sharply by more than 50% in May-June when Elon Musk tweeted his concerns about the impact on the environment and China cracked down on crypto trading. As panicky investors rushed to sell, prices of some crypto currencies tumbled 30-40% in hours. Buyers returned in September and Bitcoin price again crossed Rs 54 lakh in November. It has now settled at Rs 39.91 lakh, about 32% higher than what it was at the beginning of the year.

Much will depend on government policies. China, the world's largest crypto market, banned all transactions in September. Analysts say as blockchain technology attains wider usage, this stance will only isolate China from the rest of the world. In India, the government has worked on legislation to regulate use and trading of cryptocurrencies. The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill was to be discussed during the winter session of Parliament but the ruckus over the farm bills prevented its introduction. The Bill "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India. It allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology and its uses".

How the crypto trajectory moves will depend on policies

Basic rules to follow

Though the bill was not discussed in Parliament, the interest among investors has not dampened. However, cryptocurrencies are a new investment class, with very little data for fundamental analysis. Here are some basic rules to keep in mind when entering this high-risk arena.

Invest small amounts: Many crypto coins have surged 5,000-6,000% in the past few months. But don't get carried away by these numbers. As in case of any other investment, one should invest only what one is willing to lose. Even if you have a high risk appetite, don't put more than 10-15% of your overall portfolio in cryptos.

Learn to stomach extreme volatility: This is a high-risk high-reward game and investors must be able to digest high volatility. As the May crash showed, an overnight fall of 70-80% is a possibility. Keep in mind that even a bluechip like Bitcoin is down 25% from its November high of Rs 54 lakh. Enter this market only if you can stomach extreme variations.

Use a trustworthy platform: The crypto space is not regulated in India and new outfits are mushrooming every day. Invest through an established and trustworthy platform so that your money does not get stuck if there is a regulatory setback or the promoter company goes under. Investing through an overseas platform may require greater compliance on the tax front.

Don't act on tips: The crypto space suffers from a severe lack of credible data. Investors are dependent largely on unverified information on social media. Self Styled crypto analysts create Whatsapp groups packed with accomplices who vouch for their accuracy. These analysts trap gullible investors, first by charging a fee for the tips and then using them for their pump-and-dump operations.

Focus on blue chips: Like the stock markets, the crypto market also has blue chips, mid-caps and penny coins. Don't get tempted into buying obscure coins just because they are priced very low. Bigger coins may be costlier but are more stable. You can buy in fractions so don't worry about the price. Bitcoin and Ethereum are the bluechips of the crypto space and drive the overall market sentiment. **- ET Bureau**

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 41-year-old man. I have been married for nine years and have until now enjoyed a healthy sex life with my wife. Of late, I have been suffering from premature ejaculation. I have a lot of stress at work, and that is causing anxiety. Can I use delay sprays? Is it safe? And will it help if I have anxiety issues or is it only a solution to tackle physical sensitivity? Kindly help.
The spray is safe but you need to know more about it before you use it. I suggest you meet a sexpert.

2 I am a 36-year-old woman. After sex, I always feel the urge to urinate. Also, my husband has difficulty to penetrate the vagina. I have observed that the lubrication is normal. What could be the possible reason for this? I exercise daily and eat homemade food and there is no particular stress in my life. I am very worried. Please help.
Maybe the position you take is not suitable or there is a muscle spasm. It is normal to feel the urge to urinate, as the penis is hitting the bladder. I suggest you try different positions and see if that helps.

3 I am 70 years old and want to know about the anatomy of eunuchs and about their sexual organs. Are they born with certain physical deformities or is it just psychological?
Eunuch is a term used to describe a male whose testicles have not developed, been destroyed or removed. If this occurs prior to puberty, the boy will possess many feminine features. To learn more, browse the Internet.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

Don't lose sight of fitness goal

Here's how you can stick to your health resolutions after New Year celebrations

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With 2022 just around the corner, you certainly have a list of New Year's resolutions at the back of your mind ready to be penned down. And while we hope you can stick to all of them, the truth is, once most people are done with all the New Year celebrations, the list of resolutions is long forgotten. But you can't risk that with your health and fitness! This is why help is at hand.

Oh, just in case you don't know where to begin with your resolutions, how about these ones listed here.

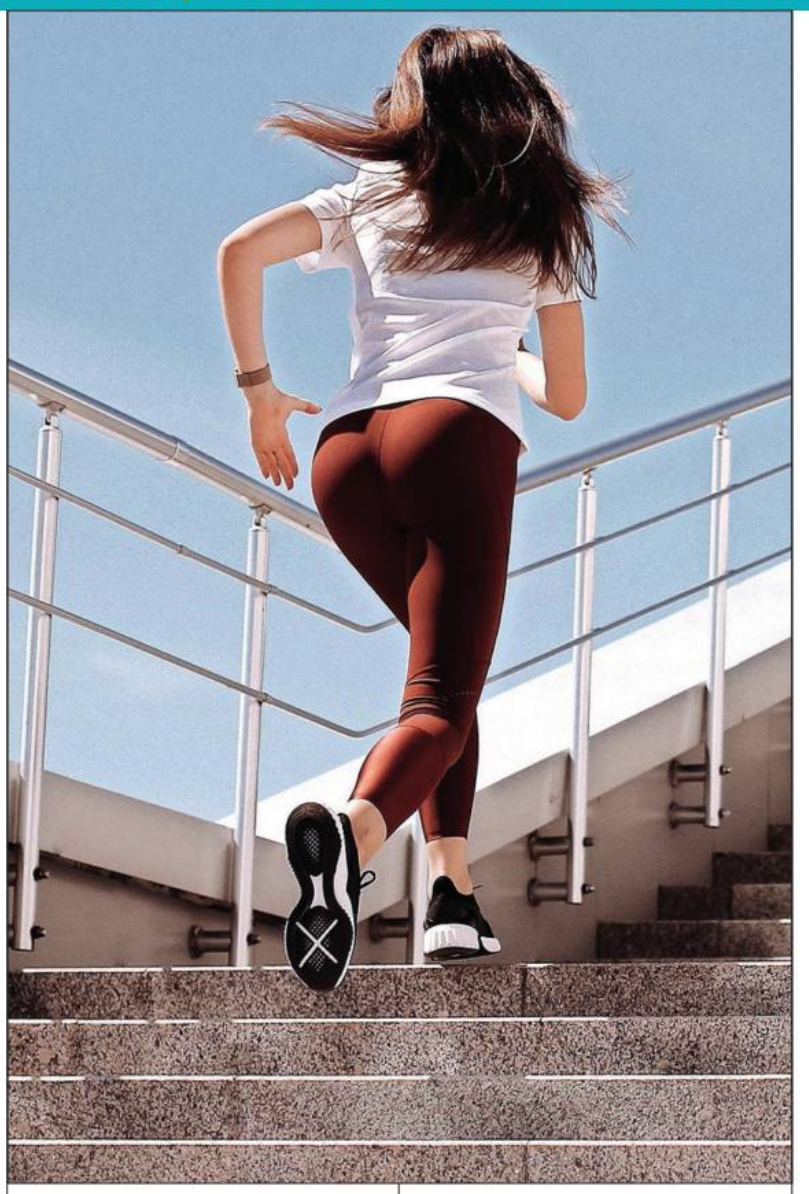
Phew, that looks like a long list! Don't let it worry you even the slightest bit, though. Read on for easy fitness tips and ways to ensure you put your resolutions into action.

Goal-setting tips post New Year celebration

The thing with resolutions is – they are hard to keep. So make it simple! Here's how.

Plan ahead
Don't pull out your notepad and pen at the end of your New Year celebration party. You don't want to rush this, so put ample time and thought into what you want to achieve, why you want it, and how you intend to go about it.

Small steps
Don't resolve to do something you know you just won't be able to do. If your schedule doesn't have room for an hour's exercise each morning, then don't put 'Exercise one hour every morning' on your to-do list. Start slow and steady; even if you can put in 15 minutes of exercise daily or 30 minutes of exercise thrice a week, it's okay. It's a start, and it's better than ending up not doing anything at all till the next New Year celebration, all the while feeling sad about not being able to keep your resolution.



Be realistic
What's that? Do you want to give up your favourite foods for good? Are you sure you'll be able to? Why not start with limiting your indulgences; instead of resorting to never eating cake and then bingeing on it a week later, followed by pangs of guilt, be realistic and allow yourself a treat once a week. Withdraw gradually and you're sure to succeed.

Celebrate the wins
Give yourself a pat on the back for your efforts from time to time, and celebrate when you attain your step goals and keep your New Year's resolution. This will help you track your journey and progress, and also keep you going for the big prize.

Plan for failure
What happens if, despite your best intentions, you end up not keeping your fitness resolutions post-New Year celebration? Will you give up completely? Consider such scenarios and have a backup plan ready. Pick up from where you leave, don't worry about what you missed out on achieving, focus on what you still can.

Tip: Keep things simple and realistic, and you'll be fine!

- Easy fitness tips post New Year celebration
- Keep it fun and interesting, and it won't feel like work. How do you do that? These pointers will help!
- Build exercise into your routine
- Instead of taking time out of your schedule to exercise, why not burn some calories while you're going about your day! Start with taking the stairs instead of the elevator at work or when visiting friends. And you don't have to climb all the way up to the 10th floor; climb as many floors as you can and use the lift for the rest. Consider having a standing desk in your home office or at your workplace, walk around when you're on audio calls, and the like.
- Take on household chores
- Yes, household chores help burn more calories than you can imagine.

Exercise with friends
Having someone to confide in about your fitness journey helps. Enlist your friends to keep pushing you towards your goals. Better yet, coax them to get started on fitness with you.

Tip: It's all in the head; change your attitude and mindset, and see the difference for yourself.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Not your beauty hack

Skincare is not just about a face wash and a moisturiser anymore. Besides getting introduced to the world of activities, ingredients and products like serums, toners, essences and more, we also have one more world where beauty holds supremacy, and that world is none other than that of internet hacks. Be it TikTok beauty or influencers and e-beauty gurus, the internet is swamped with loads of information. But this virtual world has a nasty side as well (at least for your skin). As helpful and easy as it sounds, it could also cost your skin its health and appearance. We share here a list of hacks that you should outright stay away from.

Sunscreen contouring: Yes, there is a thing like sunscreen contouring on TikTok as a hack to achieve a natural contour. As crazy as the idea sounds, the side effects are scary. Natural-looking bronzed skin can translate into tan, sun damage and other skin concerns on areas exposed to sunlight. Before a dermatologist says it, let us tell you – do not try this. Contour powders are a much more cost-effective option.

Toothpaste on acne: This one has stayed around for longer than it should have. Well, firstly, the simplest reason behind avoiding toothpaste on your skin is that it is crafted for your teeth and not your skin. Secondly, the anti-bacterial compound triclosan that was once an active part of its formulation is not widely used in the making of toothpastes anymore. So, goodbye toothpaste, hello anti-zit patches.

Glue as blackhead remover: While this hack will instantly transport you to your childhood where applying glue and peeling it off was a fun thing to do, so-called beauty bloggers are using glue's peel-off property as a substitute for pore strips. Bad and uninformed idea. Glue is thin and super flimsy which is why it can't pull off stubborn gunk and dirt out of your pores plus it is packed with chemicals that you don't want to give your skin access to.

–FEMINA

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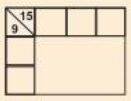
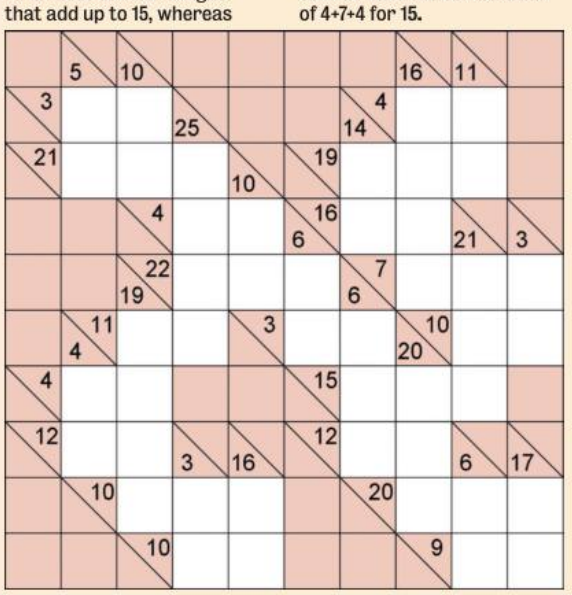
Kakuro

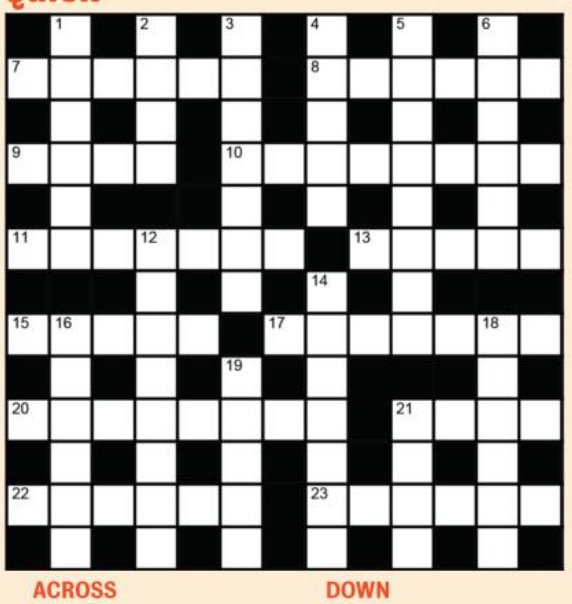
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Makeshift shed (4-2)
8 Lacking the power (6)
9 Great deed (4)
10 Ball that turns towards the off (3-5)
11 Links coach (4,3)
13 Carried on war etc.? (5)
15 Bullets (5)
17 French cakes (7)
20 Precious stones expert (8)
21 Andean shrub (4)
22 Stimulates or excites a person? (4,2)
23 Yield (6)

DOWN

1 To this matter, in legalese (6)
2 Flying pest (4)
3 Trees-"or Lapps" anagram? (7)
4 Hindu goddess of war (5)
5 Demeanor, disposition or bearing (8)
6 Split open (6)
12 Most blurred (8)
14 West Indian music style (7)
16 Hires, rents or sublets (6)
18 Ragged youngster (6)
19 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
21 Taxis in America (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS U

XYN XD MKN ETNSMNQM JHUMXTHNQ ZXP USY ESHY XJNT QXANXYN HQ MX VNSM KHA SM IXGHMNYNQQ.

Linemaro

Nothing that you've ever done before counts. The only thing that matters is that we're together

Mindchow

To be able to ask a question clearly is two-thirds of the way to getting it answered

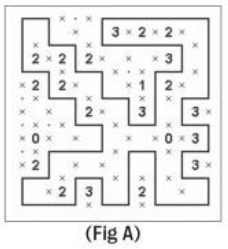
Joke of the day

Customer: Waiter, this soup tastes funny
Waiter: Then why aren't you laughing?

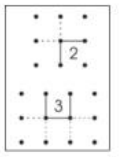
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

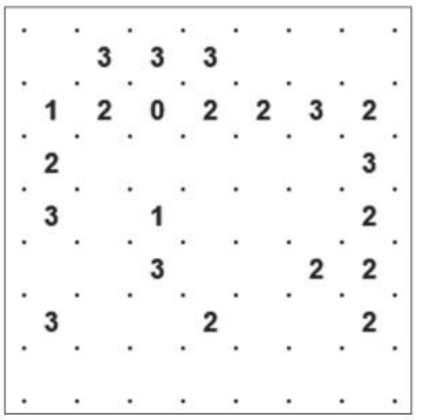


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

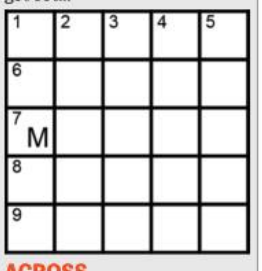


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

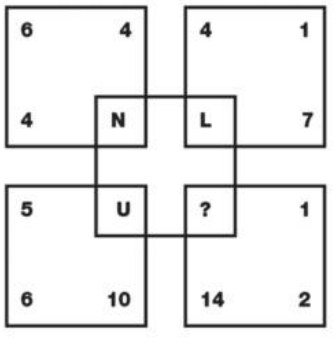
1 As cub; 6 Lunar;
7 Say Ms; 8 A rale;
9 Scowl

DOWN

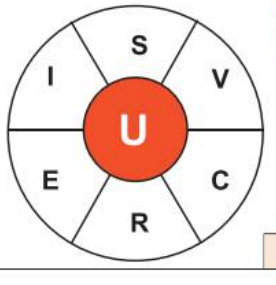
1 Camus; 2 Carol;
3 Sun we; 4 Baals;
5 Lyra's

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5		6		4		7		9
			6		3			
9								4
1		2	3		7	9		6
		8				4		
3		5	8		4	2		1
6								7
			9		6			
4		9		2		5		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

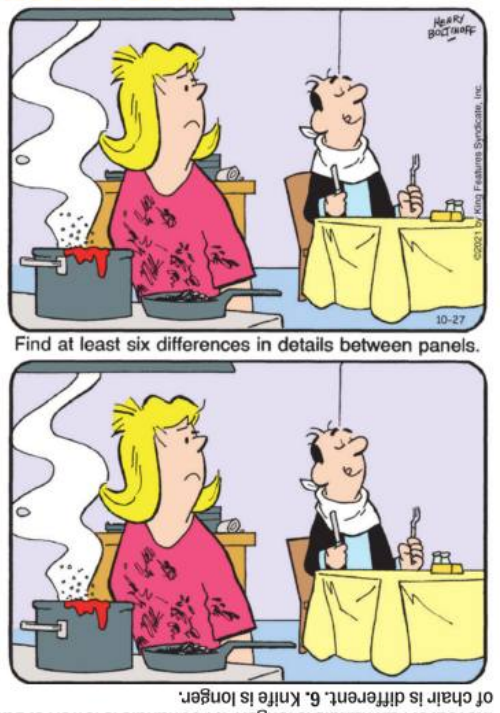
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16
2 2 5 7

Medium = 42
2 3 5 7

Hard = 45
5 8 8 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Napkin is different. 2. Salt and pepper are moved. 3. Pan handle is longer. 4. Pot handle is lower. 5. Back of chair is different. 6. Knife is longer.

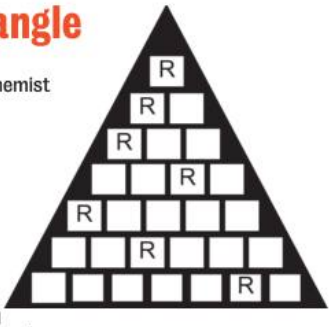
Riddler

Every clue below can be answered with a two word phrase in which each word contains OR. Your job is to figure out what they are. Good luck.

1. Listing in the Guinness Book
2. Home of Texas Christian University
3. Person who gives a kidney or liver
4. Piece of fiction not as long as a novel

Alpha triangle

1 Right letter
2 Radium, for the chemist
3 Marvelous
4 Pub projectile
5 Appraised
6 Spate of words
7 All about food



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

GUESS WHO?
GIVE ME A HINT
OKAY... I'M TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME
COME AROUND SOME OTHER TIME ... MY BOYFRIEND TANGLEFOOT IS DUE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW
10-14

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HI! I'M FUN-SIZE, THE HAPPY MINIATURE CANDY BAR!
AND I'M HERE TO WISH YOU A SUPER-DEE-DUPER HALLOWEEN!
THANKS
AGGGHHHHH
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

17
15
13
YOU HEAR A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES AND GET THE UPPER HAND AGAINST... THIEVES!!
YOU ALL TAKE A BREAK FOR THE EVENING. ROLL FOR AWARENESS.
GIVE US THE GOLD!
I WANT TO FIGHT ALL OF THEM ON MY OWN!
ALL OF THEM?!
ALL OF THEM.

Crankshaft

HANG ON, RALPH... I'LL CHECK AND SEE IF I'M FREE TO PICK YOU UP.
I JUST HAVE TO CHECK THE CALENDAR...
OR AS I LIKE TO CALL IT, MY DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT SHEET.
11-10

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses which may boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your communication skills may help you on the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds are likely to exchange their views with each other which may build a foundation of their relationship.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, blessings from elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiatives which may help you at work. Your intuition may help to gain more in terms of finance. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life. Students may expect good results with the help of destiny.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness; you may be fickle towards your goals which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may expect some instant gains in your business which may boost your confidence level as well as bank balance. You're advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum during business and work. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be in a hurry. You are advised to drive safe. But with the blessings of your elders, you may come out from the messy situation. You are likely to be more romantic in your love life; harmony in domestic life may come. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dullness and unhappiness. You are advised to avoid harsh conversations with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation of your hard work. You need to follow your intuition. You're advised to be patient while taking important decisions.

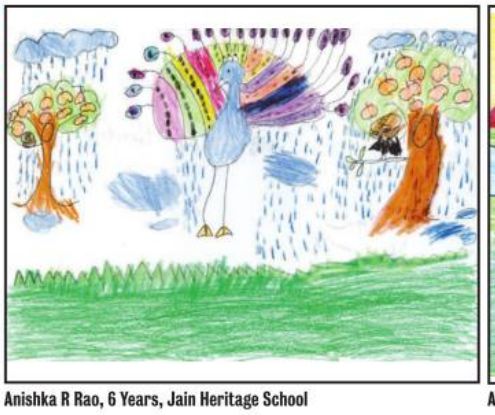
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You are likely to be attracted by the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence which may affect your work. It is better to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your subordinate staff may be cooperative; it may help you to complete postponed projects. You are likely to join some social event which may boost your network; it may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settled now. Students are advised to avoid carelessness.

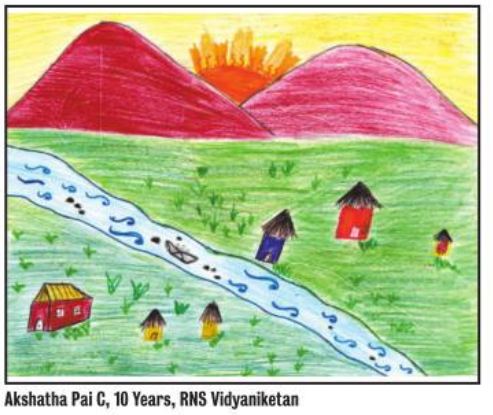
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to connect with a social organisation which will improve your network. Singles may find soulmate in terms of marriage.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you will be blessed by moon. Love would be in the air in terms of a personal life. Singles may find suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

KIDZONE



Anishka R Rao, 6 Years, Jain Heritage School



Akshatha Pai C, 10 Years, RNS Vidyaniketan

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
64½ • 3i = 2•6 = 12

BULL'S EYE
cruise, cure, curse, CURSIVE, curve, ecru, ruse, sure, uric, user, virus

FAST FIVE

S	C	U	B	A
U	L	N	A	R
M	A	S	S	Y
A	R	E	A	L
C	O	W	L	S

QUOTE UNCODE
One of the greatest victories you can gain over someone is to beat him at politeness.

STRIKE OUT

P	L	U	M	S		C	O	S	T	A	T	E		
E		O	A	F		D	U	O				M		
A		A	P	O	G	E	E	S				P		
R	U	B	B	L	E		A	S	S	A	I	L		
L		L	I	S	H			U				O		
S	O	W	N		E		A	P	P	L	Y			
F		N		G	R	I	D	S		A		S		
L	O	D	E	S		R		S	A	Y	S			
E		X			S	E	A		U		T			
C		D	Y	N	A	M	I	C				B		
E	X	P	O	S	E		M	Y	O	P	I	A		
L	A	P	I	D	A	R	Y		C	O	C	A		
R					L							R		
E		G		H								E		
S	L	U	G	S		G	A	T	E	A	U	X		
O			S		C			G						
G	O	L	F	P	R	O		W	A	G	E	D		
T			A		I		V							
F	E	A	T		L	E	G	B	R	E	A	K		
R		A		P		R		R		E				
L	E	A	N	T	O		U	N	A	B	L	E		
H		G		P		D		C		C				

QUICK

S		T		I		O		S		N				
K	E	Y	S		U	P		S	U	B	M	I	T	
L														
L	A	P	I	D	A	R	Y		C	O	C	A		
E		G		H		L						R		
S	L	U	G	S		G	A	T	E	A	U	X		
O			S		C			G						
G	O	L	F	P	R	O		W	A	G	E	D		
T			A		I		V							
F	E	A	T		L	E	G	B	R	E	A	K		
R		A		P		R		R		E				
L	E	A	N	T	O		U	N	A	B	L	E		
H		G		P		D		C		C				

RIDDLER
1. World Record, 2. Fort Worth, 3. Organ Donor, 4. Short Story

MENSA PUZZLE
Q. Adding the three numbers in each square together gives the numerical value of the letter at the centre of each square.

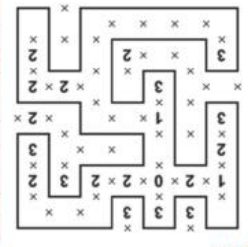
SUDOKU

5	8	6	1	4	2	7	3	9
2	7	4	6	9	3	8	1	5
9	1	3	5	7	8	6	2	4
1	4	2	3	5	7	9	8	6
6	2	1	4	8	5	3	9	7
3	9	5	8	6	4	2	7	1
7	6	8	2	1	9	4	5	3
8	5	7	9	3	6	1	4	2
4	3	9	7	2	1	5	6	8

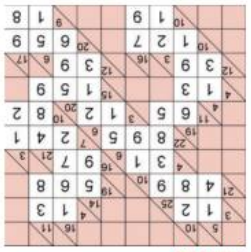
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ra, Rad, Dart, Rated, Tirade, Dietary.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 2 + 7 + 2 = 16
Medium
7 + 5 + 2 × 3 = 42
Hard
6 × 8 + 5 − 8 = 45

LOOP



KAKURO



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Cheeky Tom Hollywood star Tom Holland is having the last laugh on haters who think he's too short to date Zendaya. The 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' actor liked a post claiming "short men have more sex" after being trolled over his height.

Now you see me, now you don't

When paths cross, busy exes avoid eye contact

If the reports are to be believed, Samantha and Naga Chaitanya who were shooting for their respective films at Rama Naidu Film studios last week reportedly avoided eye contact with each other.

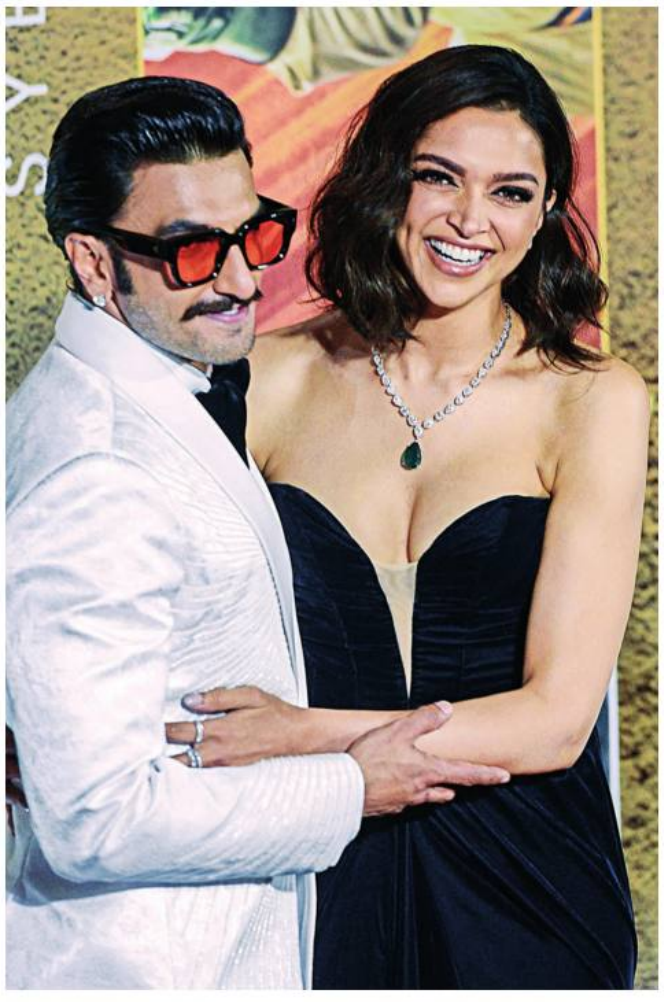
The much talked-about couple of Tollywood Chaysam has parted their ways due to unknown reasons and both the actors are now busy with their respective film careers. They two were busy shooting for their films at the Ramanaidu studios recently and while shooting they reportedly avoided eye contact with each other.

Not only that, the two wrapped up their shoot quickly and left the venue in their own respective cars. Samantha was reportedly shooting for 'Yashoda', whereas Naga Chaitanya was shooting for his upcoming flick titled 'Bangarraju' along with his father at the same film studio.

Apart from, Samantha is also shooting for her portions for 'Shaakuntalam' and Tamil film 'Kaathu Vaakula Rendu Kaadhal' while Naga Chaitanya will feature in Aamir Khan's 'Laal Singh Chaddha' and 'Thank you! —ETimes

Work hard, holiday harder

After release of much-awaited film, couple jets off on a getaway



Post the release of their much-awaited film '83', Bollywood power couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh took off for a quick getaway to spend quality time together.

The two were spotted at the airport on Monday morning as they exited the city for their annual holiday.

Both Deepika and Ranveer made impressive style statements wearing different shades of brown and complemented each other well. Deepika chose a white top and muted brown pants. She rounded up her look with a pair of solid olive green boots and a sling bag on her shoulder. Ranveer, on the other hand, sported a brown leather jacket, chunky sunglasses and a black embellished hat.

Both the actors have a power-packed 2022 ahead with their big-ticket releases. While Deepika will be geared up for yet another release in January, 'Gehraiyaan', the teaser of which was hugely appreciated, Ranveer will be back on set for his next film.

Ranveer has films like 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' and the Rohit Shetty directorial 'Cirkus' lined up for release in 2022.

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